

Steam Ship Atlantis
Off Fortress Monroe Nov 14th 1865

Dear Father & Mother

You must think it strange that we do not write but it is nothing strange to me because we are ~~now~~ both out of stamps and money and that is the case with most of the boys. We expected to get our pay before we left camp Belger but ~~it~~ did not. we will have to wait some time before we ~~will~~ get it now. Lieut. Shaver has told me this morning that I could send a letter without a stamp by letting him write "Soldiers letter" on the envelope and then you ~~could~~ could pay the postage ^{on} when you get it so I thought it would be well to ~~write~~ do so

We left Camp Belger a week ago
last Wednesday and got aboard of
this ship. we started the next day
and got about ~~so~~ ten miles from
Baltimore and run on to a sand
bar, we were there just a week
before ~~so~~ they could move her.
They had to take off two hundred
tons of her load and the soldiers
1300 in number. and then they
hitched on three steamboats and
three steam tugs before they could
move her. We started at 5 o'clock and
arrived here at noon the next day.
Yesterday we were taken ashore to
give our blankets and clothes an airing.
we staid on shore till night.

I see the big gun "Union" and the
the Lincoln gun and also the big
gun Thunders they ~~are~~ are monsters
I tell you. I see the gun boat
Cumberland the one that was sunk.

by the Merrimac they have raised ^{her}
+ and ~~she is used~~ took the engine
and masts out and she is used for
a Hospital storehouse. I went
into what the boys called it the "fill
yard" they are larger pills than
I should care about taking but
perhaps I shall get one. I hope not.

The cannon ball yard I meant
there was a yard about as large
as that down by Mills barn full of
balls of ^{all} sizes and shapes. They were
piled in piles about four or five
feet high it was a big sight
we looked around the Fort till about
dark when we got on board of a
Steam boat and were taken back to the
Atlantic. There is three companies
of our Regt on this vessel and the
rest of them are up to Newport
news. About twelve miles from here

up the James river. they say we
are going up there to night
or to morrow to stay about a
week to give them a chance to
fix the ship so they can get
us more men. and then we
will start for some place or
other we dont know where
~~it is~~ we will go either to Mobile
Charleston or Texas I think it
will be to Texas. if we go up to
Newport News we will have a chance
to see the noted gun boat
"Monitor". Well it is getting most
the time for the mail carrier to collect
letters, and so I will have to stop.
Harrison is well and sends his
respects to all. When you answer
this direct it to Washington and
it will be forwarded on the Regt
and if you have plenty of stamps
I wish you would put in a few
give my love to all
I am well Yours affec^t J L Brown